

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, CASC, PEPR, US, GW, UG
SUBJECT: UGANDA: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

REFS: (A) BONN 1037; (B) BONN 4487

1. FRG AMBASSADOR FROEWIS' CABLE, REPORTED REFTEL B,
ALSO CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE EFFICACY
OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
IN UGANDA.

BEGIN TEXT:

JUDGING THE SITUATION AT KAMPALA THE GERMAN EMBASSY
WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A TRADE BOYCOTT IS NO LONGER NEEDED TO STOP THE CARNAGE
IN UGANDA AS MASSIVE KILLINGS HAVE NOT OCCURRED SINCE
JULY 1977. PUBLIC ORDER HAS BEEN RESTORED. THE
ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS EVIDENT. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE
IF A CONGRESSIONAL ACTION BROUGHT AN END TO THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 04488 131228Z

PRESENT PERIOD OF LAW AND ORDER BY PROVOKING AMIN INTO
RETALIATORY MEASURES INVOLVING NEW HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS.

A TRADE BOYCOTT WOULD HAVE SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE, BUT
WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH IMPACT UPON UGANDA'S FOREIGN
TRADE PERFORMANCE. IF IT HAD, THE COMMON MAN IN

UGANDA WOULD SUFFER MORE THAN THE PRIVILEGED CLASS.

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. IT CANNOT BE BROUGHT DOWN BY ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. IF AMIN WERE ASSASSINATED ONE DAY, ANOTHER MILITARY COMMANDER WOULD TAKE OVER. AT PRESENT, VICE PRESIDENT MUSTAFA WOULD HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING AMIN. IN THIS CASE, THE RULE OF THE ARMY WOULD LIKELY BECOME HARSHER INSTEAD OF RELAXING THE GRIP.

AMIN IS NOT A SPECIAL CASE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE GENOCIDE MICOMBERO COMMITTED 1972 IN BURUNDI WAS AT LEAST AS SERIOUS AS THE KILLINGS THAT TOOK PLACE IN UGANDA IN PAST YEARS. AT PRESENT THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, E.G. ETHIOPIA, ARE FAR MORE CONSPICUOUS THAN THE FEW CASES OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS THAT RECENTLY HAPPENED IN UGANDA.

IT APPEARS MORE CONSTRUCTIVE TO WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE AMIN'S NEW POLICY OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION INSTEAD OF TURNING HIM DOWN AND PROVOKING RETALIATION. FROEWIS.

END TEXT.

2. REQUEST AF EXPAND DISTRIBUTION AS APPROPRIATE.
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PAGE 03 BONN 04488 131228Z

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